

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025
AT 4:00 PM
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
121 SW FLAGLER AVE.
STUART, FLORIDA 34994

CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Campbell Rich
Vice Mayor Christopher Collins
Commissioner Eula R. Clarke
Commissioner Laura Giobbi
Commissioner Sean Reed

ADMINISTRATIVE

City Manager, Michael J. Mortell
City Attorney, Lee J. Baggett
City Clerk, Mary R. Kindel

ROLL CALL

4:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Rich, Vice Mayor Collins, Commissioner Clarke, Commissioner Giobbi, and Commissioner Reed

INVOCATION

Chaplain Edward Skiba, Stuart Police Department, gave the Invocation and called upon the Honor Guard. The Honor Guard presented the colors. Flamur Zenelovic, Police Chief, announced Lieutenant Richard Shine's upcoming retirement from the Police Department after 22 years of service.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. ARTS MOMENT - LAYLA FORD SONG PERFORMANCE

PROCLAMATIONS

2. PATRIOT DAY & DAY OF SERVICE REMEMBRANCE - SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Flamur Zenelovic, Police Chief, and Vince Felicione, Fire Chief, received the Proclamation and thanked the Commission for their ongoing support.

3. CONSTITUTION WEEK - SEPTEMBER 17-23, 2025

Cathy McCartney, member of Daughters of the American Revolution Halpatiokee Chapter, received the Proclamation and announced the Constitution Reading at the Blake Library on September 18, 2025 at 3:00 PM.

4. HUNGER ACTION MONTH - SEPTEMBER 2025

Rufus Byrd, Director of Community Investment at Treasure Coast Food Bank, received the Proclamation and thanked the Commission.

5. 25TH ANNUAL BIBLE READING MARATHON - OCTOBER 2-6, 2025

Pastors Eddie and Joanne Rodrigues and Dr. Julie Bjornson received the Proclamation and provided personal testimony and details of the upcoming event.

4:31 PM *Arts Moment Layla Ford was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from Mayor Rich.

PRESENTATIONS

6. SERVICE AWARDS - SEPTEMBER 2025

Bruce Beland	Utilities & Engineering	20 years	Present
Kenneth Miller	Public Works	15 years	Present
Dylan Sperry-Calise	Utilities & Engineering	5 years	(Not Present)

7. CENTENNIAL ELECTION ANNUAL REPORT, MARTIN COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Vicki Davis, Supervisor of Election, provided a packet supplied to all Commissioners, reviewing the highlights of the Martin County Centennial Celebration, noting the historical information, voting statistics, and upcoming equipment improvements. Kherri Anderson, Deputy Supervisor of Elections, presented on their civic engagement programs and partnerships. Ms. Davis resumed with the 2026 Election information and noted a legislative update about drivers' licenses, and candidate training dates.

***CLERK'S NOTE:** The following presentation was added to the Agenda, Item #7A.

7A. Bridge Rehabilitation for County Road (CR) 707/Dixie Highway Bridge (Old Roosevelt Bridge) Over St. Lucie River

Presenters, Lance Jones, P.E., Project Manager, Florida Department Of Transportation, Ron Sanchez, P.E. District 4, Consultant Project Manager, HDR Engineering, and Lisa Stone, Project Manager, Kimley-Horn, presented on the upcoming maintenance improvements, the phases, and upcoming public meeting information. Construction is expected to be from Spring 2026 to Fall of 2028.

COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Reed

- Commented on the half-cent sales tax and a Poppleton Creek update. (City Manager Mortell responded with the tentative plan for Poppleton Creek, noted matching grants

are needed, trying to identify projects and properties that will be brought back to the Commission.)

- Commented on his preference of emails being online.
- Explained that he feels documents that the Chair signs, should go in front of the Commission before signed. (Brief Discussion)

Commissioner Giobbi

- Requested from City Manager Mortell the report of the removal of the lead paint from the Hamilton Project.
- Commented on the Friends & Neighbors Newsletter pertaining to Commissioners' salary increase and job cuts and stated that if raises were included, she would forgo receiving one.

Commissioner Clarke

- Commented that September 7th was Grandparents' Day; commended Helen McBride for participating in the City and coming to the City meetings.
- Stated she received a note about Avian Flu with wild ducks and asked the City Manager to look into our local parks/waterways, and see if there is something needed to be done.
- Commented on Fire Chief Felicione's announcement of the Roosevelt Bridge Walk, encouraged participation.
- Announced the upcoming Constitution Day reading, coordinated by the Community Services Department, at the Blake Library, Armstrong Room, at 3 p.m. on September 17th, encouraged participation and support.
- Noted that Hurricane season is upon us and asked everyone to be prepared.

Vice Mayor Collins

- Commented on Haney Creek parcel and location of the trailhead, and requested a future discussion to prioritize half cent sales tax.
- Commented on Commissioner Clarke's intention pertaining to her comment on the ducks.

COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

City Manager Mortell

- Announced that Ben Hogarth, Community Affairs Liaison, submitted his resignation and will be moving on to the City of Sunny Isles in Miami-Dade.
- Referenced Item #4 and announced a City-wide Food Drive from September 8–October 17th and the locations for the drop-off of food donations.
- Announced the Community Redevelopment Board (CRB) meeting was moved and will be held on September 15th, and the item will be a Resolution at the next City Commission Meeting and there is only one hearing.
- Announced three events; 9-11 Memorial Walk gathering at Sheppards Park on September 11th, at 8:00 a.m., Martin County Taxpayers Association, represented by

Toby Overdorf to discuss taxes at Jay Michael's Tavern and Grill on September 9th, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and a Constitution Reading at the Blake Library, on September 18th, at 3 p.m.

- City Manager Mortell requested direction from the Commissioners on the Hamilton project.

A discussion among the Commissioners confirmed to hear the Hamilton's at the September 22nd, City Commission Meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Giobbi commented on Item #12, and stated the topic was not what she requested in the last meeting.

Michael Mortell, City Manager, provided the reasons why the Code of Conduct needs to be amended and explained why it was on the agenda and related to her request.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Robin Cartwright - Stuart; Commented on her intention of the requested committee and how she wants to create an opportunity for people to meet that are like herself and to be heard.

6:59 PM MOTION: Approve.

MOVED BY: Eula Clarke

SECONDED BY: Christopher Collins

Motion approved unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (Non-Agenda Related) (3 Minutes Max.)

None.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

8. APPROVAL OF 08/25/2025 SCM-BUDGET WORKSHOP #2 AND 08/25/2025 CCM MINUTES (RC)

9. ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE 2025 ANNUAL VNA CHRISTMAS PARADE (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 83-2025; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, APPROVING A ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE ANNUAL VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION'S STUART CHRISTMAS PARADE ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025, BEGINNING AT S. E. MONTEREY ROAD TRAVELING WEST ON S.E. OCEAN BLVD. TO CONFUSION CORNER INTERSECTION; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF STUART TO SIGN THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PERMIT FOR THE TEMPORARY CLOSING OF A STATE ROAD; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

10. ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE 52ND ANNUAL STUART BOAT SHOW (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 84-2025; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, APPROVING A ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE 52nd ANNUAL STUART BOAT SHOW FROM 5:00 A.M. ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026, THROUGH 5:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026, ALONG NW DIXIE HIGHWAY (FORMERLY SR 707) FROM SW ALBANY AVENUE SOUTH OF THE OLD ROOSEVELT BRIDGE TO NW POINSETTIA STREET TO INCLUDE THE FEC RAILROAD CROSSING OF NW FERN STREET AND NW DIXIE HIGHWAY, NORTH OF THE ST. LUCIE RIVER DRAW BRIDGE, SUBJECT TO FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION APPROVAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

7:02 PM MOTION: Approve.

MOVED BY: Christopher Collins

SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke

Motion approved unanimously.

COMMISSION ACTION

None.

ORDINANCE SECOND READING

11. AMENDMENT TO LDC SECTION 11.01.02.REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OVER 50K SQUARE FEET (RC):

ORDINANCE No. 2544-2025; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TEXT TO SECTION 11.01.02 OF THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE BY DELETING THE PUBLIC HEARING REQUIREMENT FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS GREATER THAN 50,000 SQUARE FEET AND REPLACING WITH A PUBLIC PRESENTATION TO CITY COMMISSION REQUIREMENT; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Lee Baggett, City Attorney, reported on the amendments to the Land Development Code.

7:04 PM MOTION: Approve.

MOVED BY: Christopher Collins

SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke

Motion approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE FIRST READING

***** 7:26 PM RECESS *****

***** 7:30 PM RECONVENE *****

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

12. COMMISSIONER CODE OF CONDUCT REVIEW

City Manager Mortell reported that the way to put together a committee would be to evaluate the code of conduct by having a standing meeting in the event someone wants to talk about something. Without the code of conduct, there is no remedy for a committee to meet or evaluate whether there was an infraction.

Commissioners and City Manager continued discussion on possibilities for the request of Robin Cartwright to create a committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Robin Cartwright - Stuart; Commented that the two items, the code of conduct and the committee, are not inclusive or exclusive. Stated this is not meant to be punitive, but simply for the public. (Vice Mayor Collins requested clarification on Robin's intentions.) Ms. Cartwright provided an explanation of her vision of this committee.
2. Gail Goldie - Stuart; Commented on her disappointment with the Commissioners and their discussion that this committee will be singling and directing things to the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

8:19 PM

Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk

Campbell Rich, Mayor

**Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission
Meeting this 22nd day of September, 2025.**